

Black Lung Disease



Health Hazard Information Card HH-39

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

➤ Black Lung is:

- ✓ A disabling, occupational lung disease,
- ✓ Caused by inhalation of excessive levels of respirable coal mine dust,
- ✓ A disease that includes Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) (results from exposure to respirable coal mine dust) and/or Silicosis (results from exposure to silica or quartz).



➤ The symptoms of the disease are:

- ✓ None in the early stages (simple pneumoconiosis),
- ✓ Some difficulty breathing when performing under a heavy work load in the latter stages (complicated pneumoconiosis),
- ✓ Shortness of breath, coughing and pain during breathing with the most severe form of disease called Progressive Massive Fibrosis (PMF) which may result in permanent disability and early death.

➤ A diagnosis of Black Lung disease can be made by:

- ✓ Obtaining a chest x-ray,
 - At the operator's expense at intervals of not more than 5 years,
 - At the miner's expense from private doctor.
- ✓ Providing a work history that indicates employment in coal mines.

◆ *Remember* ◆

➤ **Black lung disease is NOT curable, but is preventable.**

➤ Prevent development of the disease by:

- ✓ Minimizing your dust exposure,
- ✓ Knowing and using all dust controls specified in the approved ventilation plan on every shift.

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.